



BOLTON'S CATALOGUE OF
Ants of the World
1758-2005

Barry Bolton, Gary Alpert,
Philip S. Ward, and Piotr Naskrecki

Harvard University Press

The past twenty years have marked a growing awareness of the importance of exploring and documenting the world's flora and fauna, an endeavor that forms the foundation of all the biological sciences. This baseline research is made possible, in part, by tools that condense and make available to researchers the immense quantity of taxonomic information scattered widely throughout the scientific literature. Where such resources exist, they help streamline the laborious process of identification and description that lies at the heart of the global biotic inventory.

The ants (Formicidae) are among the most abundant and ecologically important of invertebrate groups, yet our knowledge of the world fauna is far from complete. New species are being discovered and described at an impressive rate, a process that was greatly facilitated by the publication in 1995 of the first edition of this catalog: Barry Bolton's *A New General Catalogue of the Ants of the World*. This was a landmark event in the history of ant systematics. For the first time, accurate, comprehensive, taxonomic information became available to anyone anywhere in the world—simply by opening a book. The rapid progress inspired and encouraged by the catalog, however, has created the need for an update. Barry Bolton himself has done more than anyone

else to make this a necessity. His invaluable *Synopsis and Classification of the Formicidae* (2003) made important changes to ant classification at every taxonomic level...which brings us to the present new edition. The new catalog embodies advances as notable as those found in the first edition. First, the extensive changes of the past ten years are fully incorporated. Second, this massive body of information is now available for use on computers in an easy to use, attractive format provided by Piotr Naskrecki.

All of the authors deserve enormous credit. The work of creating a catalog of this size is staggering, and it requires painstaking attention to detail if errors are to be minimized. It must also be said that no one has ever reaped glory, acquired riches, or been pursued by admiring groupies for compiling a taxonomic catalog. Labors such as this are truly an act of service to the scientific community and a testimonial of faith in the enduring value of systematics. Lastly, Gary Alpert deserves special mention here for his endless hours of work and for his dedication to seeing this project through to completion. All who come to use this catalog owe him a debt of gratitude.

Stefan Cover
Museum of Comparative Zoology
Harvard University

PHOTOGRAPHS BY GARY ALPERT:

right, *Lasius claviger*; front, *Thaumatomyrmex*;
back, *Plectroctena lygaria*



DESIGN BY GWEN NEFSKY FRANKFELDT

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Minimum system requirements

Macintosh

Macintosh computer with a PowerPC G3, G4, G5 processor or Intel processor
256MB of RAM
CD or DVD drive and hard disk drive
200 MB free hard drive space
Mac OS X 10.3.9 for PowerPC-based Macs or Mac OS X 10.4.5 for Intel-based Macs

Windows

Pentium III 500MHz or higher
256MB of RAM
CD or DVD drive and hard disk drive
200 MB free hard drive space
XGA (1024 x 768) or higher resolution video adapter and display
Windows 2000 (Service Pack 4), Windows XP (Service Pack 2)

Installation instructions

To install, copy the entire folder "Bolton's Catalog" from the CD to your computer's hard drive (1). Start the application by double-clicking the file "Bolton's Catalog.exe" (Windows) (2) or "Bolton's Catalog.app" (Mac) (2).

(1) The application can also be run directly from the CD-ROM, but its performance may be slower.

(2) On some systems the name of the file may appear as "Bolton's Catalog", without the "exe" or "app" extension.



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